

D-8526

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. 115E

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**REPORT**

1, Special Branch. 115E  
Date 19. 10. 1938

Subject. Communication dated 4-5-38 from the British Consulate-General concerning Mr. and Mrs P. Lachninovice.

Made by. D. S. I. Prokofiev. Forwarded by. C. G. G. 22

Paul LACHNINOVICH, Rumanian of Jewish extraction, born on July 13, 1876 at Galatz, Rumania. He is reported to have arrived in Shanghai from Bombay in 1907. From 1910 to 1927 he was registered with the local French Consulate-General as a French protégé. In Shanghai he is generally known under the name L. Paul.

From 1908 to 1910 he was connected with the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha as an agent for the Dai Nippon Brewery (Tokyo), after which he was employed as manager of the Dai Nippon Brewery in Shanghai for about two years. From 1911 to 1918 he conducted his own business at No 2 Pearson Road under the style "L. Paul & Co., Wine & Spirit Merchants" and during the same period was also manager or proprietor of the New Travellers' Hotel, 1/2 Pearson Road, for several years. In 1918-1920 he worked as a supervisor at the Shanghai Cotton Anti-adulteration Association (Cotton Testing House), 1 Kiukiang Road.

In February, 1920 Mrs L. Paul applied for a licence to keep a restaurant at A.1044/5 Broadway East. The Police recommended that the application be refused, as there was every reason to believe that the place would be, in reality, a drinking saloon of a type undesirable in that locality.

In January, 1922 the French Police was requested by the French Consulate-General to furnish information regarding L. Paul who at that time was employed with Garner, Quelch & Co., Wholesale Wine & Spirit Merchants. A translation of the report submitted in this connection reads as follows:-

" L. Paul residing at 46 Ward Road lives with or is married to a woman who appears to be a Russian and whose acquaintance he made at the time when he conducted the Travellers' Bar in Pearson Road. At present he is engaged in the sale of liquors

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cor. letter  
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and, probably, also sells drugs when he has an opportunity to do so. He likes to display the French flag on his residence".

In July, 1925 Paul called at the S.M.P. Headquarters and volunteered to give information concerning Dr. Fortunatoff, a Soviet agent who had fled from Shanghai a few days previously in order to escape trial on a charge of bribery. From police report dated 25-7-25 submitted in connection with Mr. Paul's visit it appears that at that time he was employed with Slowe & Co. as <sup>that</sup> a travelling representative and, formerly he worked for, amongst others, Warner, Quelch & Co. and Dent & Co. He first heard of Fortunatoff in 1921 in Vladivostok and first met him during the latter part of 1921 at Lichinsky's boarding house, 11 Seward Road, Shanghai. From that date on he frequently met him at the Jewish Club, Seward Road, where Fortunatoff used to gamble heavily in chemin-de-fer. Although Paul described the Jewish club as "a disgraceful, unsanitary institution and a hot bed of gambling and Bolshevism" he admitted being a frequent visitor there for several years. It is also mentioned in the report in question that Paul was married to a Jewess who, according to him, was British by birth.

Leaving Slowe & Co. in the beginning of 1932 after about 9 years' service he joined Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co., Ltd in June of the same year as a salesman at a monthly salary of \$ 300 plus commission. He left this position on 30-9-33 on his own accord. Since that time he is not known to have been engaged in any business. It is reported that he possess certain independent means.

From 1930 he has been residing at House 9 Sun Avenue, Bubbling Well Road. He occupies a small and very modestly furnish-

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ed flat at this address and sublets the remaining portion of the house, as well as the second floor of House 11, Sun Avenue. The total amount of rent he pays is ¥ 142 per mensem.

Mr. Paul was one of the founders of the Rumanian Association in Shanghai in 1930 and was its president until March, 1932. At present he does not participate in the activities of the Association which, it must be noted, has not the reputation of a well established organization.

It is reported that some time prior to 1927 Mr. Paul divorced his first wife (Louise Cornfield?) and subsequently married one Ida Cohn, former Russian subject of Jewish origin. At present she is about 42 years of age.

In 1928 Mr. and Mrs Paul are reported to have visited Australia where they stayed for about 6 months.

According to Mr. Paul's statement, he now wishes to proceed to England with a view to settling in the country. He does not intend to engage in any kind of business there and claims to be in a position to satisfy the authorities concerned that he has sufficient funds to maintain himself and his wife. He also claims to have a guarantee to this effect from one of his friends in England ( Mr. Kenneth MacDonald, Bighthill Loan, Edinburgh II).

While in Shanghai Mr. and Mrs Paul did not come to the notice of the Municipal Police in connection with any activities of an undesirable nature.

A. Prokopen

D. S. I.

D. C. ( Special Branch).

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MUNICIPAL  
S. E. RE  
PASSPORT & REGISTRATION OFFICE 8826  
BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL  
P.O. BOX-259.  
SHANGHAI.

4th May, 1938.

Dear Major Bourne,

The Foreign Office has asked for a report concerning Mr. and Mrs. Lachminovitch Paul who reside at 9, Sun Avenue, Shanghai. The report is required with particular regard to the financial position of Mr. and Mrs. Paul, and their intentions as to occupation should they be permitted enter the United Kingdom.

We should be grateful for any assistance which you may be able to afford in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

*R. S. Heaney*

Major K.M. Bourne, M.C.,  
Shanghai Municipal Police,  
Shanghai.

*DBH.*  
*4/5*



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Dear Mr. Heaney,

In reply to your letter dated  
4th May, 1938, I forward herewith for your  
information a copy of report regarding  
Mr. and Mrs. Lachminovitch Paul.

Yours sincerely,

(S)

R. G. Heaney, Esq.,

H.B.M. Consulate-General,

Shanghai.